

Recognized Accrediting Organizations

(Updated as of April, 2005)

This chart lists regional, national, and specialized accreditors that are or have been recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) or both. Organizations identified by (•) are recognized; (–) indicates those not currently recognized. An asterisk () identifies accrediting organizations that were formerly recognized.*

CHEA recognized organizations must meet CHEA eligibility standards (www.chea.org/recognition/recognition.asp). Accreditors exercise independent judgment about whether to seek CHEA recognition. For USDE recognition, accreditation from the organization is used by an institution or program to establish eligibility to participate in federal student aid or other federal programs (www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html). Some accreditors cannot be considered for USDE recognition because they do not provide access to federal funds. Other accreditors have chosen not to pursue USDE recognition.

Because CHEA affiliation and USDE recognition depend on a range of factors, readers are strongly cautioned against making judgments about the quality of an accrediting organization and its institutions and programs based solely on CHEA or USDE status. Additional inquiry is essential. If you have questions about the CHEA or USDE recognition status of an accreditor, please contact the accrediting organization.

This chart is updated when the CHEA Board of Directors recognizes an accrediting organization and when the United States Secretary of Education recognizes an accrediting organization.

ACCREDITOR	CHEA Recognized Organization	USDE Recognized Organization
REGIONAL ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS		
Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Middle States Commission on Higher Education	•	•
New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education	•	•
New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Technical and Career Institutions	•	•
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools The Higher Learning Commission	•	•
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities	•	•
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges	•	•
Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges	•	•
Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities	•	•
NATIONAL ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS		
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools	—	•
Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology	—	•
Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council	•	•
Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training	—	•
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools	•	•
Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools Accreditation Commission	•	•
Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada Commission on Accrediting	•	•
Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission on Accreditation	•	•
Council on Occupational Education	—	•
National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences, Inc.	—	•
Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools Accreditation Commission	•	•

Recognized Accrediting Organizations (continued)

ACCREDITOR	CHEA Recognized Organization	USDE Recognized Organization
SPECIALIZED AND PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS		
AACSB International–The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business	•	*
Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc.	•	*
Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine	*	•
Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education	•	•
Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant	•	—
Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications	•	*
American Academy for Liberal Education	—	•
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education	•	•
American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Council for Accreditation	•	—
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs	•	•
American Bar Association Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar	—	•
American Board of Funeral Service Education Committee on Accreditation	•	•
American College of Nurse-Midwives Division of Accreditation	—	•
American Council for Construction Education Board of Trustees	•	*
American Culinary Federation, Inc. Accrediting Commission	•	*
American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation	—	•
American Dietetic Association Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education	•	•
American Institute of Certified Planners/ Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Planning Accreditation Board	•	—
American Library Association Committee on Accreditation	•	*
American Occupational Therapy Association Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education	•	•
American Optometric Association Accreditation Council on Optometric Education	•	•
American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Professional Education	*	•
American Physical Therapy Association Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education	•	•
American Podiatric Medical Association Council on Podiatric Medical Education	•	•
American Psychological Association Committee on Accreditation	•	•
American Society for Microbiology American College of Microbiology	—	*
American Society of Landscape Architects Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board	•	*
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology	•	•
American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education	•	•
Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., Accreditation Commission	—	•
Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs	•	*
Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs	•	*

Recognized Accrediting Organizations (continued)

ACCREDITOR	CHEA Recognized Organization	USDE Recognized Organization
Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education	•	•
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education	•	•
Commission on English Language Program Accreditation	—	•
Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation	—	•
Commission on Opticianry Accreditation	—	•
Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs	•	—
Council on Aviation Accreditation	•	—
Council on Chiropractic Education Commission on Accreditation	•	•
Council on Education for Public Health	—	•
Council on Naturopathic Medical Education	—	•
Council on Rehabilitation Education Commission on Standards and Accreditation	•	*
Council on Social Work Education Division of Standards and Accreditation Commission on Accreditation	•	*
Foundation for Interior Design Education Research	•	*
Joint Review Committee on Education Programs in Radiologic Technology	•	•
Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology	•	•
Liaison Committee on Medical Education	—	•
Midwifery Education Accreditation Council	—	•
Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education	—	•
National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences	•	•
National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc.	—	*
National Association of Industrial Technology	•	*
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health Council on Accreditation	—	•
National Association of Schools of Art and Design Commission on Accreditation	•	•
National Association of Schools of Dance Commission on Accreditation	•	•
National Association of Schools of Music Commission on Accreditation, Commission on Non-Degree-Granting Accreditation and Commission on Community/Junior College Accreditation	•	•
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation	•	—
National Association of Schools of Theatre Commission on Accreditation	•	•
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education	•	•
National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council	—	*
National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.	•	•
National Recreation and Park Association/ American Association for Leisure and Recreation Council on Accreditation	•	—
Society of American Foresters	•	*
Teacher Education Accreditation Council Accreditation Committee	•	•
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation	—	*